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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Construction of Border Fortifications and
Renovation of Airfield at Usovica

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1. A belt of pillboxes and trenches 35 kilometers long and 3 kilometers wide is to be constructed along the border from Marianske Lazne to Dylen near Oldrichov. During the week of 18 April 1949, several large concrete mixers and large quantities of construction material were moved into this area. The building of military installations along the western border is done by the Czechoslovak Construction Works, National Establishment, and supervised by the Army.
2. Also during the week of 18 April, a commission of the Ministry of National Defense, headed by a division general, inspected the border area between Liba and Cheb (P37). The general was very indignant because trees were being cut down within three kilometers of the border. He ordered employees of the State Forest Administration to authorize felling of trees only within a fifty meter strip along the border and added that the three kilometer strip would be reforested where necessary. All residents of the area, within three kilometers from the frontier, are to be transferred to the interior of the country; thereafter, only border patrols will be authorized to enter the restricted area.
3. The airfield at Usovica near Marianske Lazne (P56) is being renovated. An unidentified air force unit is being transferred to the airfield in small groups. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ one lieutenant, one NCO, and twenty-two ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ on their way to the field with full field equipment.
4. Ten barracks buildings are being built in an area 1,000 x 700 meters in the village of Mamerniky near Marianske Lazne.

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